

THE BRIDGE



Opportunity Knocks

Hip Hip Hooray Lithuania

A Memorable Occasion



EASTER EDITION 2025

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Prayer for April
 Father God, Our God
 We can but offer to you
 Our sacrifice of praise
 For loving us
 For sending Jesus
 For triumphing over
 The Cross
 The Tomb

Holy Spirit Cleanse us, fill us
 Again and again
 Use us, even us
 God be the glory
 Great things You have Done!
 In Jesus' name
 AMEN

Editorial

I was reminiscing recently on *happy endings* after reading our Book Club's most recent choice: "The hundred year old Man who climbed out of a



window and disappeared" So often with books and with dramas we can be left frustrated by an ending that is up in the air whilst most of us probably are hoping for a happy ending. There is something inwardly satisfying about ploughing through a long novel and being rewarded by a happy ending. For me it produces bliss!

My previous minister, John Young, at Liberton Kirk, Edinburgh, who taught me so much about faith in

a recent message to his congregation quotes Gavin Mathews, Assistant Director of SOLAS, a Scottish charity whose aim is to share the good news of Jesus *persuasively* and equip Christians for evangelism *practically*. Rather than putting this tendency of wanting happy endings down to our love of delusion and escapism, Gavin Mathews suggests that the opposite is actually the case: "Maybe we love happy endings so much because they point to something true?"

When this edition of our magazine is published, we will be joining Christians across the world to celebrate the unlikeliest of happy endings. To quote my previous minister who sums it up so well: "The story of Jesus is the true story of a hero who came on a rescue mission for the whole of humankind and got off to a great start. But then it all starts to go wrong, and he ends up betrayed, abandoned, unjustly accused, wrongly condemned and crucified. But then there is an unexpected happy ending, because, by his death, Jesus wins his greatest victory – of love over hate, forgiveness over vengeance and life over death. And three days later he defies all logic, natural bounds and reason to rise from the dead in his glorious resurrection".

As a result we live in a post resurrection world, where, whatever happens, we know the best is still to come:

Where, O death, is your victory? Where, O death, is your sting? But thanks be to God! He gives us the victory through Jesus Christ, our Lord. (Romans 15. 55, 57)

Wow, how amazing is our faith! Have a Happy Easter everyone!

Two Memorable Sundays

Our Sunday morning service on 23rd March 2025 was special in many ways. Firstly, we had musicians playing both our electric organs which gave great body and verve to our congregational singing and with well-chosen uplifting praise there was a joyful response from the congregation. The singing group gave an upbeat introit to the service by singing "Light has dawned". This was followed by Rev. Iain Paton, our Interim Moderator, giving a clear explanation on the meaning of Lent in which we were about to start the third week of reflection. We all experience ups and downs in our lives and temptations can lead us down the wrong paths, but with Jesus by our side we can be

assured of clear guidance and support in handling our lives with an inner peace and hope that can see through any difficulties we may encounter. This was an important message taken from Jesus' time in the wilderness where he was tested physically and mentally as well as being tempted by the devil. It was also an appropriate introduction for the two special ceremonies which followed, one, the solemn promise of profession of faith and the second a celebration of long service.

In these two special ceremonies, certificates were presented to Gail Clark for her solemn profession of faith before the congregation and to Sandy Birnie for 62 years of Eldership and great service to the Kirk starting in Glasgow North Kelvinside then at Stirling Logie Church and finally at Muthill Parish Church. Both were powerful examples of finding Jesus and what that can do in one's life. The congregation gave each a standing ovation followed by the hand of fellowship from the Elders.





Then, on the following Sunday, Karen McCulloch was admitted to the church in another ceremony of profession of faith, this time conducted by Rev. Alex Mitchell. So good to welcome these new church members and to recognise great service!



Opportunity Knocks

For Muthill Parish Church

Church Review Away-Day

At Kirk Centre

Auchterarder Parish Church

Saturday 17th May, 2025

09.30am-3.30pm

Lunch and Refreshment included

**Details and sign-up at Welcome Desk
or phone**

07825544225

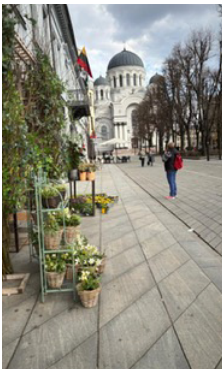
Hip, Hip Hooray Lithuania

The last time I wrote a few words for The Bridge it was suggesting things one can do in our area when young people come to stay with you. Well, this time it is "Things one can do if and when your hip or knee lets you down!

With the current state of the NHS it is very hard to get a diagnosis locally that you might need a hip replacement. For over a year I had been trying to discover exactly why I was in pain and unable to walk properly. Eventually I decided to get an independent, private consultation as to what my problem was. I made an appointment in Edinburgh in February this year, with a very nice surgeon who had an Xray taken while I was there and said, "Yes, your hip is worn out and you need a replacement." I asked him what the choices



were and he admitted it was probably somewhere around two years wait for a NHS hip operation, or £16k privately. Being a true Scot, neither option appealed to me! It was then that I started looking into the possibility of going abroad to Lithuania, a country I knew little about, for the operation. This was largely because my friend and neighbour, Carol Mills, spoke very highly of the country having been there for a knee replacement two years previously.



I first contacted the Nordorthopaedic Clinic in Kaunas, Lithuania, at the very beginning of March, their reply and all further correspondence were immediate and comprehensive, filling me with confidence. Looking it up on line I saw that it is a leading orthopaedic surgery clinic for medical tourists in the European Union with 90% of their patients coming from GB, Ireland, Norway, Sweden, the US, Canada and other countries. The clinic does about 80 replacement surgeries a month and also has a helpful supporters group on Facebook where you can chat and see reviews and ask questions. They also told me they still had the possibility of two free slots for the operation to be performed on March 18th and April 1st. I jumped at the

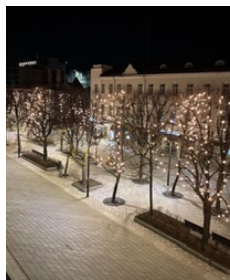
chance and tried to take the vacant spot on the 18th which seemed ridiculously quick! However the clinic is very thorough and required all my medical details

and past history for them to go ahead with the procedure. I did not manage to get all the details from my Health Centre in time, so missed the chance to be operated on that date however they booked me in for the 1st April instead (perhaps not the greatest date being as I was born on the 13th. and this was April Fools' Day!) There are a lot of decisions to be made and things to organise in such a short time, but having got a definite date, I booked my Ryanair flight for two days before and then there was no turning back! I was fractionally apprehensive (as to whether or not I was doing the right thing) on the final day but packed all I could get in two cabin bags and was very kindly driven to Edinburgh Airport in the late evening of March the 30th by Jonathan Taylor, a Muthill friend. The flight left around 10.00pm and I arrived in Kaunas 2 hours and 50 mins later (with a 2 hour forward time change) at 1.00am on March 31st. There, I and another couple were met by a member of the Nordclinic Logistics team and taken to our Kaunas Hotel. 7 hours later we were again picked up by another member of the logistics team and taken to the Clinic for pre-ops and a consultation with the surgeon. We then returned to our hotel for supper and the night and packed for the following morning when we would return to the Clinic for the next two nights.



Once I had been given the original anaesthetic I don't remember too much about the next few hours but I do remember waking up feeling very comfortable (probably because my lower half was still under heavy sedation!) sharing a room with another nice lady and an extremely helpful and kind nurse who was with us both most of the time for the next 16 hours or so. You don't get a lot of time to sit back and contemplate! That same evening we were both got up, once the anaesthetic had fully worn off, and on a high Zimmer type walker we had to walk up and down and go to the toilet! The following day the same thing again but gradually with crutches, including going up and down a few stairs, it felt a little like "no rest for the wicked" but at the same time we were pretty chuffed that we could do it! The following morning it was an hour of gentle physio, then returning by mini bus, with our crutches, to our various hotels to largely fend for ourselves! At this point we were allowed a shower which was great. The Clinic strongly believes that the first few days are the most important and requests patients to stay for at least 7 days after the op having physio before flying home. Some patients take a partner or friend with them and some travel alone as I did. The days

are quite long to fill after the operation but the town is lovely and clean and the main street is a huge pedestrian area of 1.2 miles long with a double row of oak trees down each side which are lit up at night. It is full of wonderful restaurants, boutiques and specialist shops and does not look the least run down as so many town centres sadly do at home. Obviously further out there are a lot of (left over) blocks of Soviet Union flats that are looking a bit sad and past their sell by date, but on the whole the town looks great and the people, who mostly speak English, are tall and slim (and thus very successful at Basket Ball!) are smart and well-dressed compared to home and also very nice and polite. Each morning we are picked up between 8.30am and 9.30am to go for our physio and then after an hour or so at the clinic we are brought back to do what ever we wish.



To sum up, from my first thought of going abroad to having the operation completed was well under 2 months! The total cost of everything including flights, transport to and from the airport and hotels, accommodation and food and physio for 8 days came to JUST UNDER HALF of what the cost for the operation and two nights in hospital would have been back home! I would highly recommend the Nordorthopaedics Clinic to anyone needing a replacement hip, knee or shoulder.

Lorna Clark



Inter-Church Golf Outing

Muthill Golf Club

Sunday 6th July, 2025

Meet at 1.30pm for a tee-off at 2pm

Meal and Prize-Giving at 5.30pm

Cost: budget £30.00

For further details and booking

contact Elaine Wallace

on 07753807843

Keswick Convention 2025



At the Keswick Convention 2025, 150 years of Keswick ministries will be celebrated, and the truths of the Bible will be explored through the theme *Transformed*:

Being transformed is about more than just change on the outside. It is an inside-out heart-transplant as the Holy Spirit helps us desire Jesus, become more Christlike and bear fruit for his glory. Until he takes us home.

Keswick Convention offers a varied programme to encourage you in your walk with the Lord, and space in the afternoon to appreciate his creation and all that Keswick and the surrounding area has to offer.

Join with thousands of believers in worship to our God in the beautiful setting of the Lake District

Week One: 12-18th July

Week Two: 19-25th July

Week Three: 6th July-1st August

Full details including Youtube video presentation can be found on Keswick ministries' website – info@keswickministries.org uk and speak to Becky and Adrian Davidson in our church who go along annually.

Innerpeffray - A Unique Place In History

I wonder if like me you have not yet visited the Innerpeffray Library! It had been on my list of things to do for a very long time since moving to Muthill but as you do when you know that something is always there you think you have plenty time and so you keep putting it off. It was Jean-Ann



Scott Miller, of our church family, who finally persuaded me to pay a visit in the Spring and, taking advantage of a free visit during the month of March, and so I ventured along. What an enjoyable visit it was! Not only is it a fascinating place to visit as it was the first free public lending library in Scotland, opening in 1680 but it is also located in a beautiful location on the River Earn with a chapel alongside

and not far from the ancient ruins of Innerpeffray Castle.

The founder was David Drummond, the third Lord Madertie, from one of the most important landowning families of the area. He was also a friend and brother-in-law of John Graham, First Marquis of Montrose. Not much



is known of David Drummond's life but the library was set up in his later years using his private collection of books to establish it as well as a small neighbouring school. Once the library was established, people were allowed to borrow books free of charge and you can trace some of the families who traversed the fields in pursuit of knowledge, education or simply to satisfy the

fun of reading. There is a fascinating Borrowers' Register on display.

David Drummond further arranged for the continued financing of the library after his death by provision in his will for part of his landed estate to be set aside and used to maintain and develop the library. The present

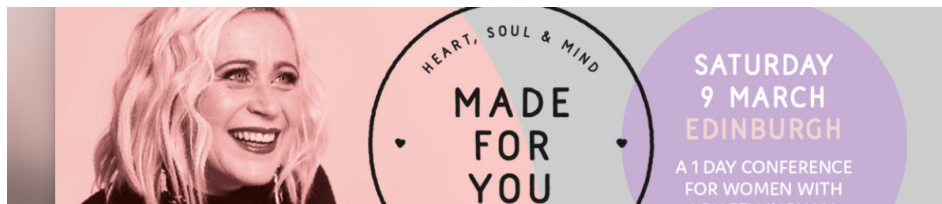
Trust (Innerpeffray Mortification) was set up by the family in 1696. Eventually, Robert Hay Drummond inherited the library and school and it was he who raised funds to commission the present building in 1736. He also added to the book collection. He had acquired a residence relatively nearby, namely Cromlix House. Today, it is managed by a Board of Governors with a Friends Association. It survives as a library with a unique place in history and is an enchanting place to see with its very impressive collection of books of historical and national importance.

After receiving a basic historic introduction from the Assistant Keeper, I was escorted upstairs to the main library and reading room and was given an enthralling explanation by Jean-Ann of some of the amazing important books in the collection. The ones which I was shown were 17th C publications ranging from religious ones to guides to living, then one or two of a medical nature covering all the known illnesses and ailments of that day and finally there were geographical ones showing details of the known world of that time with fascinating maps, illustrations and interesting commentaries of people and places. One in particular included a 17th C description of Scotland, its people and their character which was very interesting to compare with modern times. I was also shown entries about Ukraine and its people, again a 17th C publication, which had been shown with great interest to a couple of Ukrainians living in Strathearn and visiting shortly before me.

What I had originally thought might be a short visit turned out to be over two hours of riveting history and explanation which only made me all the more interested in our ancestors in Strathearn and the people's vision recorded from the 17-18th C. period of time. The library is open Wednesday to Sunday and I would highly recommend speaking to Jean-Ann who is a great asset of the Library bringing so much enthusiasm and knowledge to guiding you around. I was impressed and will certainly return to explore more of the fascinating collection. We should be proud of local historical places like Innerpeffray and, if you have not visited, then I highly recommend a visit.

Sandy Hutchison

Made for You Conference 2025 Edinburgh



Some of the ladies of Muthill Parish Church attended this event at P&Gs Church in Edinburgh earlier in March.

The event is hosted and lead by Lou Fellingham and her worship band with invited speakers and charities. The day is a low-key event specifically designed for women to spend time together with fellowship, reflection, bible-based learning and worship.

The sound of a packed church full of ladies worshipping God through song is always uplifting and there is usually the opportunity to learn a new song or two.

We even managed to eat our lunch outdoors in the glorious Edinburgh sunshine.

This year the chosen charity was Open Doors. The speaker used videos of persecuted Christians from Nigeria telling their lived experiences. At times it made for difficult listening but their real-life stories of hardship and yet their hope through their faith in Jesus were touching and inspirational.

You can contact Open Doors for more information on their work and how to donate at www.opendoorsuk.org. Every day, millions of Christians risk their lives to follow Jesus. In more than 70 countries, Open Doors supports them by supplying Bibles, providing emergency relief and helping persecuted believers stand strong for the long-term. In the UK and Ireland, Open Doors helps the church to pray, give and speak out for those who share our faith but not our freedom.

The Made for You Conference, previously known as Women Walking with God, now takes place every year, and we would highly recommend coming along to be refreshed in your journey with God.

Becky Davidson

The Lent Experience

This year, for the first time, our House Group followed the Lent readings prepared in the booklet 'Living Hope - a Lent Journey' published by Church House Publishing. They were also generally available each Sunday from the Welcome Desk in



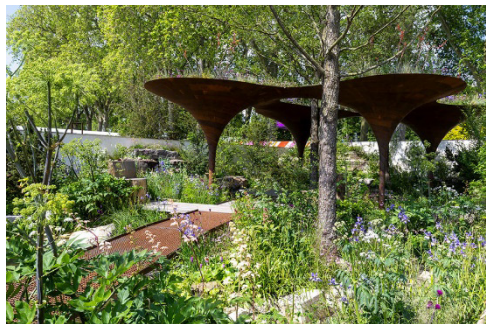
the church. Providing daily readings exploring different aspects of Christian Hope, they took us on a journey exploring the promises of God at the root of Christian Hope, the imperfections that our world has and that we have as human beings, the importance of trusting and noticing God, working together, having courage and finally experiencing the transformation that comes with Easter.

It was a challenging but worthwhile exercise, as it explored the fact that life is full of ups and downs but if we have faith and trust in God's presence in our lives, hope is all around us and that can be powerful in the way we live our lives and as an example to others. Jesus' time in the wilderness and the temptations he experienced there so clearly illustrate how life can at times be difficult, despairing, draining, and can feel hopeless. Yet the power of living hope can pull us through such times, developing determination and character and give us the promise and experience of inner peace and joy.

It was certainly a journey which properly set Easter in context with all that it means for new life, forgiveness and life eternal. Worthwhile? Definitely yes, as it heightened the experience of meaningful rejoicing that this celebration brings!

The Beauty And Happiness Of Flowers

Many of you will have admired the Easter Tree in Highlandman Park, the decoration of which was organised by Muthill in Bloom. Very shortly they will be needing help with planting the village tubs and then watering over the summer season. If you can help, this will be much appreciated. Any little help is valuable as it is quite a task beautifying our village. If you can help in any way, please contact Susan Crawford on 07706 093500. A bit of a distance from Muthill, but well known by everyone, the



20th – 24th May brings us the RHS Chelsea Flower Show. The most prestigious gardening show in the world, it attracts about 168,000 visitors a year. Its cutting-edge garden designs have been called the ‘haute couture’ or ‘World Cup’ of gardening.

Here are 12 interesting facts about the Show:

- The RHS Chelsea Flower Show is organised by the Royal Horticultural Society.
- The Show began in 1913, with about 250 exhibitors in a large single tent. Today the Show covers more than 23 acres with more than 550 exhibitors and gardens, not to mention the Great Pavilion.
- The Great Pavilion is HUGE – it covers 2.90 acres, with enough room to park 500 London buses.
- The Show has been held in the grounds of the Royal Hospital Chelsea in London every year since 1913, except for gaps during the two World Wars and Covid
- It takes just under three weeks to build a Show Garden, and five days to take it down.
- In 1927 there was a campaign to get the RHS to ban foreign exhibits,

to reduce competition. The RHS refused, saying 'horticulture knows nothing of nationality'.

- The late Queen Elizabeth II attended RHS Chelsea more than 50 times.
- It takes 14 judges and two moderators 25 hours to judge and assess all gardens at the show. It takes 50 judges and four moderators three hours to judge all the exhibits in the Great Pavilion.
- Garden gnomes have always been banned, except in 2013, the show's centenary year. That year, well-known supporters, including Elton John, Dame Helen Mirren, Joanna Lumley, and Mary Berry – painted gnomes to sell for charity.
- 2020 brought the first ever virtual RHS Chelsea, during the Covid pandemic.
- It is not Britain's largest flower show, that is now the RHS Hampton Court Palace Garden Festival.
- One very wet year the show was nicknamed the 'The Chelsea Shower Flow.'



Christian Aid Week
10-17th May, 2025

Beetle Drive

Saturday 10th May, 2025

Bruce Hall at 7pm

Quiz Night

Wednesday 14th May, 2025

Bruce Hall at 7pm

Breakfast

Sunday 18th May 2025 9-9.30am

Contact Alison Hockly for further details or to help

Opportunity Knocks - Saturday 17th May, 2025

You may have noticed in the previous edition of the magazine that the Kirk Session approved a study day for leaders and all interested members of the congregation which will review the status of our current mission initiatives and seek to redefine and adjust our current priorities for the period ahead. The Church of Scotland, under its radical plan to achieve economic stability and to meet the current crisis caused by shortage of ordained ministers has decreed that any church's future will be judged by the success of their mission more than anything else. It is also healthy for any organisation to review how they are doing and not to rest on its laurels!

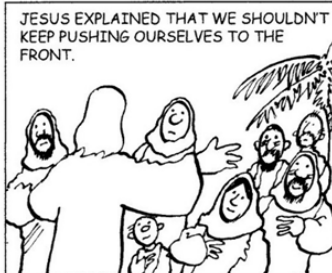
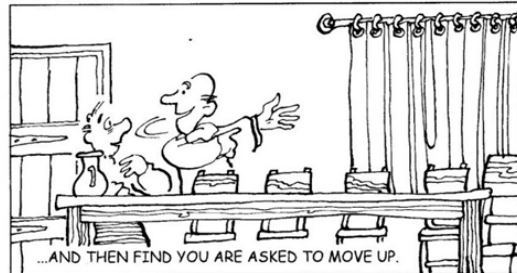


This study day will, therefore, review our strengths and weaknesses in regard to our declared mission which is always stated on the back of the magazine and will try through imaginative thinking, prayer and discussion to adjust our priorities in measurable steps forward so that we can all be united on the path we are taking in engaging with our community and serving the Lord. To lead this day we are fortunate to have enlisted Ewen Gilchrist, who is well known to the congregation for his inspiring and challenging thoughts.

What is now needed is the assurance that a good number of the church leaders and active members of the church family are present and ready to work together in this important task. Sign-up sheets together with an explanatory leaflet on the purpose for the day are available on the Welcome Desk together with a programme for the day.

The venue of Auchterarder Parish Church Kirk Centre has been chosen for this event as it provides suitable facilities for the nature of the work to be done and is only a short distance away. So please join us!

Bible Parable



Kirk And Community News

Ardoch-Blackford Parish Church Union

A goodly number of our congregation attended the Presbytery of Perth Service of Union of Ardoch and Blackford churches on Tuesday 25th February. It was held in the Blackford Parish Church Centre in front of a largely full church congregation. Such services are inevitably formal in nature and often are affected by sad feelings from members of the individual churches involved. This one, however, was uplifting in so many ways. The church was full of the two congregations, a goodly number of representatives of Presbytery and other guests and all received a warm welcome with interesting AV slides before the service to settle them into the pews at the back or the more comfortable chairs towards the front of the sanctuary.

As for the service itself, the worship singing was led by guitar and, with an excellent sound system, it proved to be uplifting and moving with much vibrant singing. The preacher, Dr Ian Morrison, gave a very inspiring and engaging sermon with great encouragement to look forward and the formal parts of the service conducted by the Moderator, Rev. Alan Reid, from Kinross, were well explained and conducted very smoothly. One powerfully moving section was when Rev. Mairi Perkins, minister of the united charge, took her second oath before the congregation.

At the end of the service the chairs at the front of the church were rearranged for refreshment and cakes with much joyful interaction taking place. Altogether, it was a very special and encouraging service of union. It was also good that Muthill Parish Church, which under the Presbytery Plan is intended to join as a link centre of worship was well represented. We wish Ardoch-Blackford Church every success in their union and may God bless this new beginning and inspire their mission in their respective communities.



Spring Activities In And Around The Village

Good to see the village coming together in a one or two March events! There was the Bowling Coffee Morning which welcomed the usual packed



hall on Saturday 8th March and there was also inter club indoor curling match between the Monday Club and MPC Men's Group – a great fun event but not a good outcome for the Mens Group which were heavily beaten.

Elsewhere at many different locations around the village, work was underway preparing colourful eggs for the Easter Tree in Highlandman Park. A group from the Guild and others from Muthill Parish Church was involved in this preparation as can be seen from the photograph opposite. Work will also be undertaken on Easter weekend in collecting daffodils and other Spring flowers for the flowering of the Cross at the church



on Easter Sunday.

MPC Mens Group

As we enter Spring, the Mens Group has planned one or two outings in addition to their normal coffee/chat meetings on a Wednesday. The first will be to see the activities of the Mens Shed in Cultybraggan, Comrie. This is part of their research into whether a similar facility might be suitable for Muthill. Then, in the months leading up to summer, there will be trips to the Scottish Antique and Arts Centre in Abernethy and to Dundee with a choice of visiting the V&A or Discovery. Both these outings will be open to ladies. Finally, there will be a dinner outing before the summer recess and then during the months of July and August, after last year's success, there will be coffee visits to members' gardens.



Kirk And Community News

Social Exercise Class

Following discussion in the Men's Group, investigations have been undertaken to see whether a social exercise class for both ladies and gentlemen could be established in the church serving interested members of the church family, friends and villagers.



These classes are very beneficial for keeping you active in later life and are well subscribed at the Campus in Crieff and at other locations in Strathearn in conjunction with Live Active Wellbeing. We are now pleased to announce that a class will start in Muthill Parish Church on a trial basis on Tuesday 6th May, 2-15-3,00pm.

The trial will last 8 weeks and hopefully, if successful, they will continue with the possibility of transferring to a Friday morning. They will be run in conjunction with Live Active Wellbeing and will be conducted by Kirsty Eadie, the Strathearn Wellbeing Coordinator. All are welcome to these classes which will be charged at £4 per session in line with charges elsewhere and will include the offer of refreshment and fellowship afterwards. As one who is now over 80 with some balance issues and who attends a similar class at the Campus in Crieff, I can highly recommend these sessions where each participant just does what they are able to do.

Some of the benefits of physical activity:

Helps you to maintain a healthy weight

Reduce your risk of falls by strengthening your muscles

It is linked to supporting your thinking skills

Boost your mood and energy levels(exercise releases endorphins)

It's social – joining a sports team or a class can help you to make friends

Age UK

Pastoral Care

As a church we wish to convey the love of God to all who want to receive it and included in this service we have members of the congregation who are willing to pray for or with you, normally after Sunday service in a quiet place. We also include on our Order of Service sheets special prayers that we would like members of the congregation to pray for. Further, there is a prayer box with blank cards available for prayer requests on the Welcome Desk at the rear of the church sanctuary. Anyone is welcome to insert a request for prayer. These are confidentially handled by the Prayer Team.

The Pastoral Care Team also do home visiting and are interested in knowing of anyone who would welcome a visit, regular or otherwise, from one of our visitors.

All members of the Team have undergone Training and will shortly hold safeguarding certificates. The team organises home visits and home communions and a special annual memorial service for the bereaved. Training is provided and there are regular review meetings where we try to learn from each other and share our experiences. If this service to our church family and beyond could be of interest to you either as a user or you might be interested in joining the team, please contact **Irene Foster/Sandy Hutchison**.

Kirk Session

Our Kirk Session met in March and will do so again towards the end of April focusing on two important issues, namely finalising the church accounts for presentation to Presbytery and to OSCR (see below) and to try and finalise its thinking on plans to further upgrade the church building in terms of an enlarged kitchen, further toilet provision and new storage. Dealing with an historic building with limited space this has not been an easy exercise for the Kirk Session as it seeks to preserve and enhance the improvements already made to our sanctuary, whilst trying to ensure that our building also meets the needs of increased usage and current building requirements. It is hoped that some conclusion will be reached on what can be achieved at a special meeting just after Easter and that plans will then go forward to the bodies that need to approve before any scheme can start. In the next edition of the magazine in June 2025, it is hoped that the plans will be presented and explained in further detail.

Kirk And Community News

Bi-centenary of the Church

As many will know the bi-centenary of the laying of the foundation stone of the present church building will be celebrated in Spring 2026. It is planned to hold a special service of commemoration, but the Kirk Session has decided that the major celebration of the bi-centenary should be when the church opened for worship and that means it will be some two years later. For this, bigger plans are envisaged and will be developed in conjunction with the central Church of Scotland.

Annual Accounts

At the March meeting of the Kirk Session, Willie Bell, Finance Convener, aided by Doreen Reid, Treasurer, presented a simplified version of the Church annual accounts. Members of Kirk Session were given a full explanation of income and expenditure on the congregational accounts and of the movements in investments and disbursements from the various Trust funds. The general position remains healthy and once the accounts have been finalised in the format required for submission to Presbytery and OSCR (Charity Commission) there will be a presentation to the congregation after a Sunday service.

Welcome Desk

Have you yet visited our Welcome Desk at the rear of the Church on a Sunday. It firstly is the site of our prayer box which is mentioned earlier under the update on our Pastoral Care service. The desk also has information on key things happening in the church, such as details of events with their sign-up sheets, copies of the church magazine, rosters for after-service refreshments, the provision of flowers for the sanctuary, the soup and sandwich lunches and monthly details of the Community Bus outings. We also have a supply of handy little books on Try Praying and other regular magazines from some of the charities that the Church supports. All are free to pick up and you are welcome to pass any onto friends.

New Flower Convener



We are pleased to announce that Rona Johnston has been appointed as our new Flower Convener and as such will be responsible for organising the roster for provision of flowers and special decorations for our sanctuary at Sunday morning services. A keen gardener and a former member of Trinity Gask Church we are delighted to welcome her to this important role in our church. If you would like to provide flowers for a special anniversary or occasion, please contact Rona on 0764662539.

Church Calendar

Did you know that the Church uses a Google calendar for recording all bookings for usage of the church premises. This helps us to ensure that there are no double bookings and covers the Sanctuary, Bruce Hall and North and South Lounges. If you want to use one of these areas and want to check whether it is free, speak to Joe Knowles to help you. We are also keen to ensure that the church heating is properly used and regulated. In the case of the Sanctuary and Bruce Hall the heating there is on timer and so, for any bookings of these areas, there is a need to consult Joe in the first instance. For the North and South Lounges, there are independent local heaters and any users of these areas are responsible for switching the heating on and off.

Kirk And Community News

Correspondence

We are planning to provide a new letter rack shortly for use of all members of the congregation. It will most probably be sited in a suitable location in the church lobby so that people can check as they enter or leave the church building. It will have an alphabetical arrangement and can be used for leaving correspondence envelopes, messages or greetings cards

Film Nights with St James



Our last film night for this session will be on Monday 12th May in Muthill Parish Church Sanctuary starting at 7pm to which anyone is very welcome. These events which include screening of the film, refreshments and a short discussion of the film afterwards have proved very stimulating for all who have attended. We thank Rector Duncan for organising these, and hope that they will

continue to grow in popularity. They films are all full length feature films and are selected to promote initial reaction and discussion of themes. In the current season, we have had a very varied selection covering all sorts of social and international issues. These events are also an opportunity for our two neighbouring churches to work more closely together and to enable each church family to get to know the other better. So make a date to join us for a thought provoking and entertaining evening! We normally finish around 9.30pm and there is no charge.

Christian Aid Week

This year's official Christian Aid Week will be taking place between 10-17th May, 2025.

As an organisation Christian Aid pressurised the G8 to cancel billions of dollars of debt owed by low-income countries. It helped to create the Fairtrade movement that benefits farmers worldwide and it continues to try and harness the unstoppable power of hope. Right now, the actions of reckless polluters and greedy lenders are trapping people in poverty. This Christian Aid Week is calling on the UK Government to make polluters pay for the climate crisis and to introduce new debt justice laws that could pull millions of people out of poverty. There is an

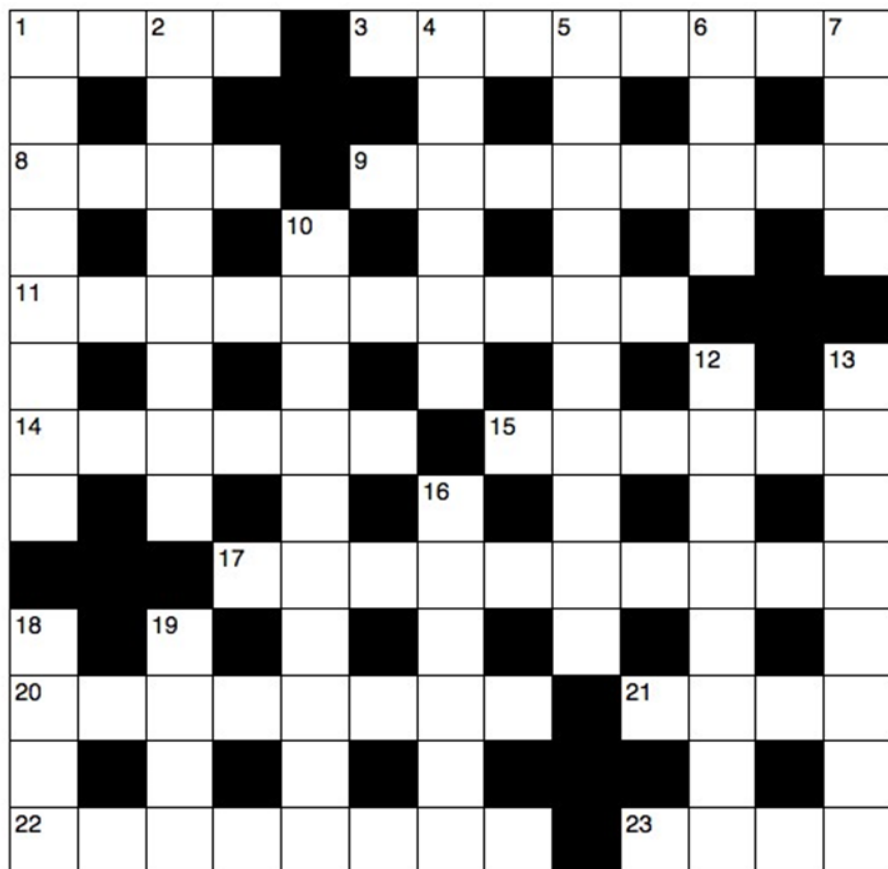


online petition to sign in the Christian Aid website.

In Muthill Parish Church we will be running one or two fund raising activities. There will be a Beetle Drive on Saturday 10th May and a Quiz Night on Wednesday 14th May, both starting at 7pm, and on Sunday 18th May, there will be a Breakfast before church with bacon butties. It will be great if you try to attend one or all of these events at which you can make a donation. Donations envelopes will also be available in Church or from Alison Hockly and there is also the Christian Aid tin on the coffee service table after Sunday services each Sunday until 18th May.



Crossword



Across

- 1 Infant (Luke 2:12) (4)
- 3 Luis must (anag.) (8)
- 8 What Jesus called the devil (John 8:44) (4)
- 9 'My God, my God, why have you — me?' (Matthew 27:46) (8)
- 11 Anglican form of church government (10)
- 14 'Those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like — ' (Isaiah 40:31) (6)
- 15 Ministers of religion (6)
- 17 Make stronger (1 Thessalonians 3:13) (10)
- 20 Devoutness (1 Timothy 2:2) (8)
- 21 The father of Jesse (Ruth 4:22) (4)
- 22 Pool where Jesus healed a man who had been an invalid for 38 years (John 5:2) (8)
- 23 '[Jesus] said to them, " — here and keep watch"' (Mark 14:34) (4)

Down

- 1 Follower of Christ (Acts 16:1) (8)
- 2 One of the punishments endured by Paul (2 Corinthians 6:5) (8)
- 4 Soldiers (Exodus 14:9) (6)
- 5 Scholarly study of melody, harmony and rhythm (10)
- 6 'I am God, and there is none — me' (Isaiah 46:9) (4)
- 7 'And how can they preach unless they are — ?' (Romans 10:15) (4)
- 10 Favourable reception (1 Timothy 1:15) (10)
- 12 Hip orbit (anag.) (8)
- 13 End of life (Isaiah 22:14) (5,3)
- 16 'About midnight the sailors — they were approaching land' (Acts 27:27) (6)
- 18 He married Jezebel (1 Kings 16:30–31) (4)
- 19 'According to your great compassion — out my transgressions' (Psalm 51:1) (4)

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***Solution on page 35**

Book Reviews



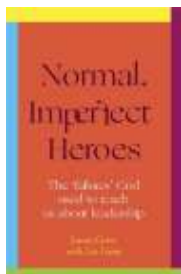
The Tears of Things – Prophetic Wisdom for an Age of Outrage

By Richard Rohr, SPCK, £21.99

How do we live compassionately in a time of violence and despair? What can we do with our private disappointments and the anger we feel over an unjust world? In his most personal book yet, Richard Rohr turns to the writings of the Jewish prophets, showing how some of the lesser-read books of the Bible offer us a path forward today.

The prophets' writings reflect a profound lamentation about the pain of the world. And they also embody what Rohr calls holy disorder – a distinct approach to confronting malevolence and recognising the wholeness of every living being.

Drawing on a century of biblical scholarship and written in the warm, pastoral voice that has endeared millions to Rohr, *The Tears of Things* breathes new life into ancient wisdom and paves a path of enlightenment for us today.



Normal, Imperfect Heroes – the 'failures' God used to teach us about leadership

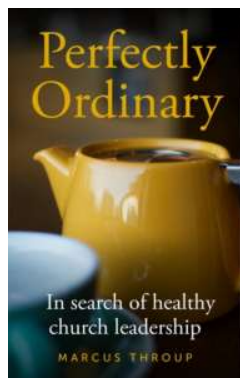
By James and Liz Grier, SPCK, £12.99

The 'heroes' of scripture are more like us than we realise, with both their God-given strengths and profound weaknesses. The book is in four parts: exploring the beginning of leadership in Genesis, through Moses, the first two Kings and finally Jesus' apostles. Bishop James (Bishop of Plymouth), along with his wife Liz, adds to this teaching with insights and anecdotes from their own experiences.

This is a book for anyone who is trying, with varying degrees of success, to follow Jesus, whether as a leader or simply as a follower. It will offer reassurance to those who have been shaken



by the failure of a leader, aspire to step into leadership themselves or are just trying to lead where they are.



Perfectly Ordinary – in Search of Healthy Church Leadership by Marcus Throup, Canterbury Press, £14.99

In the wake of scandals involving high-profile Christian leaders in the UK, US and beyond, this book issues a timely warning about the dangers of pursuing ‘spectacular’ ministry. It shows how coercive, manipulative subcultures often thrive – and are even admired – because of their outward success, while ignoring the deeper harm they cause.

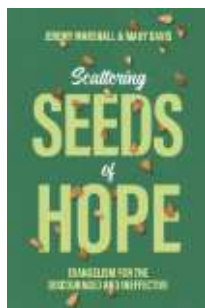
Marcus Throup calls for a return to an authentic, Christ-centred approach to leadership that values humility, faithfulness, prayer, and genuine pastoral care over sensationalism. He invites readers to rediscover the heart of ministry: holiness, down-to-earth preaching, and a focus on what truly matters.



A Good Old Age – An A to Z of Loving and Following the Lord Jesus in Later Years by Derek Prime, 10Publishing, £7.99

Old age often gets a bad press. Associated with grumpiness, aches and pains, loneliness, and isolation it's not something we particularly look forward to or relish when we're there.

Pastor and Bible teacher, Derek Prime, writing in his 80s, shows us that there is another way to view old age. He guides us through 26 Christian priorities that we should hold to in later life. With biblical wisdom and practical advice, he helps us to navigate the unique challenges and joys that old age can bring. This is a book to dip into, meditate on and read prayerfully as you let the truths it contains gently transform the way you live your old age.



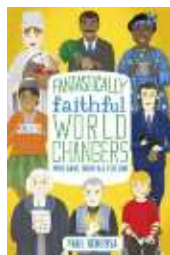
Scattering Seeds of Hope – Evangelism for the Discouraged and Ineffective

By Mary Davis and Jeremy Marshall, 10Publishing, £6.99

Nearly all of us are discouraged when it comes to evangelism. We want others to become Christians, but we are afraid and have many excuses for why we don't or can't share the gospel.

After being diagnosed with incurable cancer in 2013, until his death in 2023, Jeremy told countless people the gospel. *Scattering Seeds of Hope* explains the method Jeremy found so effective: simply sharing Bible stories, being a good friend and asking questions. There are no long gospel outlines to learn, no special techniques to rehearse and absolutely no guilt trips.

What if the secret to effective evangelism is to simply scatter seed abundantly and indiscriminately and watch while God does the rest?



Fantastically Faithful World Changers Who Gave Their All For God

By Paul Kerensa, SPCK, £7.99

The Fantastically Faithful People series brings children aged 7plus real-life stories that reveal what ordinary people can achieve when they put their faith in God.

This book brings you: **John Newton**: who went from slave ship captain to a leading light in the fight against slavery; **Elizabeth Fry**: who improved conditions for countless people in prison; **Thomas Barnardo**: who transformed the lives of children living in poverty; **George Washington Carver**: who went from slavery to ground-breaking scientist; **Rosa Parks**: who helped bring an end to laws that discriminated against African Americans; **Wangari Maathai**: whose work led to the planting of millions of trees across Africa; **Christian Fuhrer**: whose prayer movement helped re-unite a country; and **Joni Eareckson**

Tada: who helps people with disabilities find hope, dignity, and faith. With humorous black and white line drawings and text that bounce off the page, books in this biography series for the 21st century will inspire kids aged 7 plus to put their faith in Jesus and to use their talents for the glory of God.



Walk in my Shoes – stories of Miraculous Transformation

By Mick Fleming, SPCK, £16.99

Working with some of the poorest in society, Mick frequently witnesses the miraculous power of God breaking through into places that you could never have imagined. The homeless soul at his consecration is one of many who will be touched by God's grace.

Mick's own origins and own wayward past – 'my first arrest was at the age of 9' – are another recurring theme in a volume full of warmth, wit and compassion. We read of him joining a passing NHS protest march en route to the Princess of Wales's Christmas Concert; leaving the medical team responsible for saving his life with their own hearts strangely warmed; trusting God to speak through him at a French Catholic festival and discovering that 'God loves prostitutes' are exactly the right words...



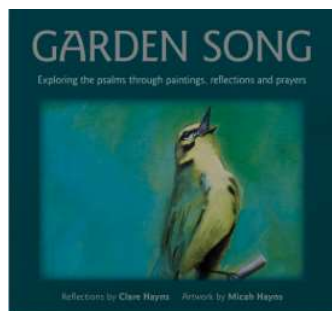
Playing in the Dust – a Pilgrimage with the Creation Stories

By David Runcorn, Canterbury Press, £13.99

Here is a new take on the creation stories, an adventurous, open-hearted approach to themes like being made in God's image, freedom and obedience, and the tension between dominion and ecology.

Through short, conversational chapters, Runcorn explores key questions about human identity, calling, temptation, rest, and

more, helping readers reconnect with the playful wisdom of Genesis.



Garden Song: Exploring the Psalms Through Paintings, Reflections and Prayers

By Various Authors, BRF, £14.99

This book brings together original artwork by artist Micah Hayns and reflections and prayers by Reverend Clare Hayns. Leading the reader through 30 selected psalms, the mother-son duo capture the essence of this ancient text – the worship, the grieving and the joy – and open up new ways to engage with its riches. There is also a playlist of suggested music to accompany the reflections.



Social Exercise Class

Tuesdays

Starting 6th May, 2025

2.15-3.00pm

Muthill Parish Church

Live Active Wellbeing Trainer

Cost per session: £4.00 incl. Refreshment

Book place by contacting 07825544225

SUDOKU

				1	7			
3			2	8				1
4						3		
2						9	7	
			9		6			
	7	5						6
		8						4
1				2	9			5
			5	6				

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*Solution on page 34



Editor's Note

The next edition of the magazine will be the early summer edition 2025 edition. The magazine will be published on **Sunday 22nd June 2025**, and so the deadline for submitting articles, intimations, letters etc. will be **Friday 13th June, 2025**.

Please submit this to macahiph@gmail.com or send to Sandy Hutchison, Green Brae West, Pitkellony Street, Muthill PH5 2AF.

Please also understand that all articles submitted have to be subject to possible adjustment to suit the balance of the magazine's content and its physical confines. If space does not permit, submissions will be considered for the next edition. All submissions will be acknowledged. It is our Publishing Policy to publish factual clarifications or corrections in the next edition of the magazine.

The views expressed in the magazine are not necessarily those of the Editor or of the Kirk Session. Editorial comment and signed articles do not necessarily contain the official views of the Church of Scotland which can be laid down only by the General Assembly.

Sudoku Solution:

3	2	1	9	6	7	4	8	5
8	4	6	5	3	1	9	7	2
5	7	9	2	4	8	3	1	6
7	5	4	6	9	2	8	3	1
6	8	3	7	1	5	2	9	4
9	1	2	4	8	3	6	5	7
4	6	8	1	7	9	5	2	3
2	9	7	3	5	6	1	4	8
1	3	5	8	2	4	7	6	9

Useful Contacts

Useful Local Telephone Numbers

NHS 24	111
NHS Emergency	999
Hospitals:	
Crieff Community Hospital	01764653173
Perth Royal Infirmary	01738623311
Ninewells Hospital, Dundee	01382660111
Crieff Medical Centre:	
Blue Practice	01764652283
Red Practice	01764657060
Crieff Pharmacies:	
Boots	01764652310
Davidsons	01764652177
Strathearn	01764654876
Torlum	01764652727
Police:	
Emergency	999
Non-Emergency	101
Action Fraud Scotland	101
Schools:	
Muthill Primary School	01764661466
Crieff High School	01764657600
Crieff Primary School	01764657888
Morrison's Academy:	
General and Secondary	01764653885
Primary	01764657196
Ardvreck School	01764653112
Veterinary Practice:	
Crieff Vets	01764652086
Broadley Vets	01786824400
Struthers & Scott Vets	01786841304
Tower Vet Centre	01738583083

Crossword Solution:

ACROSS:

1, Baby. 3, Stimulus. 8,
Liar. 9, Forsaken. 11, Episcopacy. 14, Eagles. 15, Clergy. 17, Strengthen. 20, Holiness. 21, Obed. 22,
Bethesda. 23, Stay

DOWN :

1, Believer. 2, Beatings. 4, Troops. 5, Musicology. 6, Like. 7, Sent. 10, Acceptance. 12, Prohibit. 13,
Dying day. 16, Sensed. 18, Ahab. 19, Blot.



Mission Statement

Muthill Parish Church
aims to be
A place to find peace and welcome
A people growing in Christian faith and love
A presence at the heart and soul of the community

Church Website

www.muthillparishchurch.co.uk

Facebook

<https://www.facebook.com/muthillchurch>

Email

muthillparish@yahoo.com

Magazine Graphics & Cover Photo

Our cover picture theme is "Animals Gather at the Easter Tree". Thanks to Raffie for sourcing the graphics for the magazine and helping in the production."

Registered Scottish Charity

Muthill Parish Church - SC004984